India as a petro-hub

†204. SHRIMATI KUMKUM RAI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal to make India a Petro-hub;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) to what extent India is likely to be benefited thereby?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) In view of India's export earnings of over Rs. 28,000 crore from petroleum products in 2004-2005, Indian Oil Corporation Limited have been asked to prepare a detailed feasibility study on making India as an investment destination for refineries, in particular export-oriented refineries, aimed a promoting India as the refining hub of South Asia/South-East Asia.

(c) The results of the study will indicate the possible benefits.

Inclusion of natural gas in the Union List

205. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Supreme Court has recently ruled that Natural Gas is a Central subject;

(b) if so, the details of the ruling given by Supreme Court on the subject Natural Gas;

(c) whether this ruling make some of the legislations made by some States *ultra vires*; and

(d) if so, whether Government have any plan to amend the Constitution to include Natural Gas in the Union List?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Supreme Court, in their Opinion dated 25.3.2004 in Special Reference No. 1/2001 under Article 143(1) of the Constitution of India have held that Natural Gas including Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG), is a Union subject covered by Entry 53 of List I and the

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.